



# San Francisco Environmental Justice Framework



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COMMUNITY AND PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE, HEALTH COMMISSION

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# BACKGROUND & GOALS

# Partnerships with Public Health Staff

## DPH STAFF WERE STRONG PARTNERS AND ADVOCATES FOR THE PROCESS

- Karen Pierce
- Matt Wolff
- Karen Yu

## PARTNERS



**Karen Pierce**

Environmental Justice Director



**SF Environment**



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Senior Environmental Justice  
Coordinator



**Edgar Barraza, Tracy Zhu, Will  
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# The City's General Plan

## VISION FOR THE FUTURE

- A comprehensive vision, with objectives and policies, influencing how we **live, work, play, and move about**, & the **quality and character** of the City.
- Through public adoption, the General Plan reflects **community values and priorities**.
- Both **public action and private development** must conform to the General Plan.
- It is composed of 10 Elements that cover topics such as **Housing, Transportation, and Safety**.



# Why Plan for Environmental Justice (EJ)? Why Now?



- **CA Senate Bill 1000 (SB1000)** requires:
  - Analyze data on **EJ Communities\***
  - **Adopt policies in General Plan** to address “unique or compounded health risks” (standalone element or integrated throughout)
- **Planning & Historic Preservation Commissions** called for General Plan policies to address **racial & social equity**.

\* Referred to as “Disadvantaged Communities” in SB1000

# What Is **Environmental Justice**? (our working definition)

*Environmental Justice is the **equitable distribution of environmental benefits** and **elimination of environmental burdens** to promote healthy communities where everyone in San Francisco can thrive.*

*Government should foster environmental justice through processes that **address, mitigate, and amend past injustices** while enabling **proactive, community-led solutions for the future.***



For an activists' definition, see the **EJ Principles** at: <https://www.ejnet.org/ej/principles.html>

# What **Policies** Can Address Environmental Justice & Racial Equity?



**Healthy &  
Resilient  
Environments**



**Physical Activity  
& Healthy Public  
Facilities**



**Healthy  
Food Access**



**Safe, Healthy,  
& Affordable  
Homes**



**Equitable &  
Green Jobs**



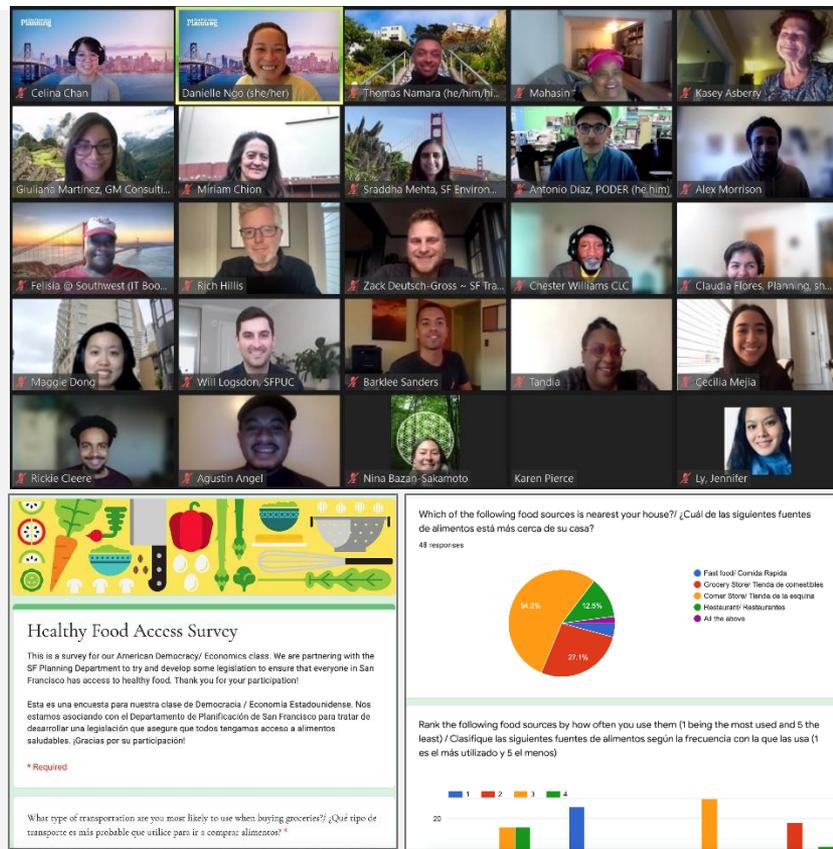
**Empowered  
Neighborhoods**

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# COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

# Community Engagement: Goals

- **Meaningfully involve the community** in local decision-making
- **Uplift residents, workers, and community leaders** most impacted by EJ
- Elevate EJ to a **citywide dialogue** across neighborhood boundaries
- **Acknowledge past harms & identify solutions** where the City can step in



# Community Engagement: CBO & Community Partnerships

## YOUTH ENGAGEMENT

- Malcolm X Academy
- Balboa High School
- SF State University

## FOCUS GROUPS

- Promotoras Activas San Francisco
- Carnaval San Francisco
- Booker T. Washington Community Service Center
- Potrero Hill Neighborhood House
- City of Dreams
- Wu Yee Children's Services

## EJ WORKING GROUP

- American Indian Cultural District
- Bayview Hunters Point Community Advocates
- Brightline Defense
- Chinatown Community Development Center
- Code Tenderloin
- Demonstration Gardens - Tenderloin Peoples Congress
- Fillmore Media Systems & Services Co.
- Japantown Cultural District
- PODER
- Potrero Hill Neighborhood House
- Residents Supporting Community On Treasure Island
- San Francisco African American Faith Base Coalition
- San Francisco Parks Alliance
- San Francisco Transit Riders
- Sistah Music Snax Entertainment
- Southwest Community Corporation
- St. Andrew Missionary Baptist Church

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## ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE COMMUNITIES MAP

# How the state defines EJ Communities\*

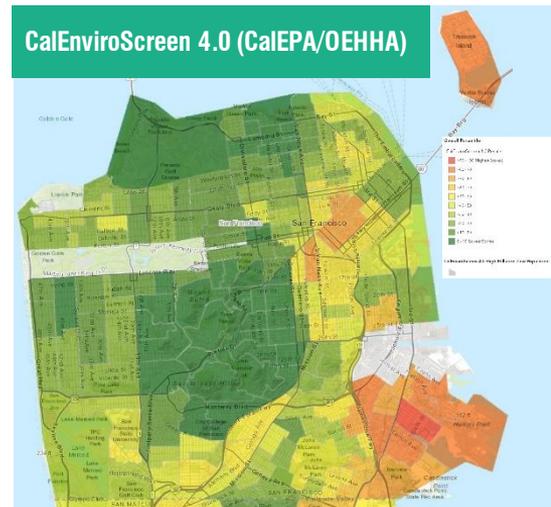
SB1000 cites **CalEnviroScreen**

- 20 pollution, health, and socioeconomic indicators
- Used for state programs (ex: cap & trade fund)
- **Critique:** excludes many sensitive neighborhoods in SF

Goals of **SF-specific analysis**

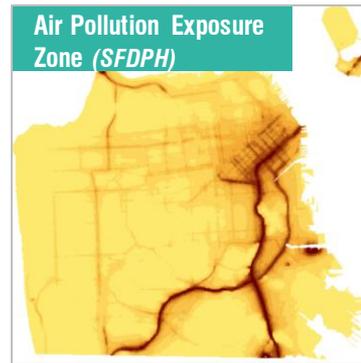
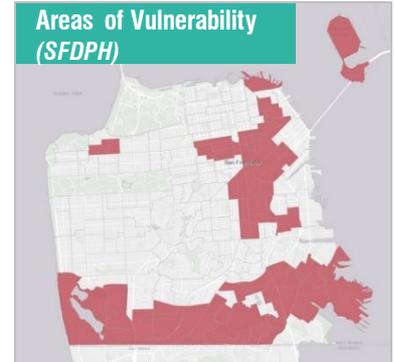
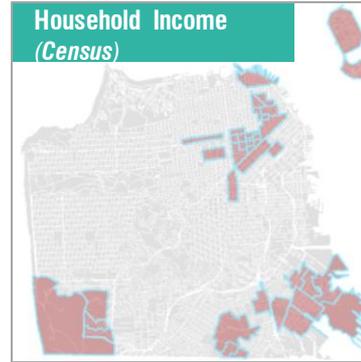
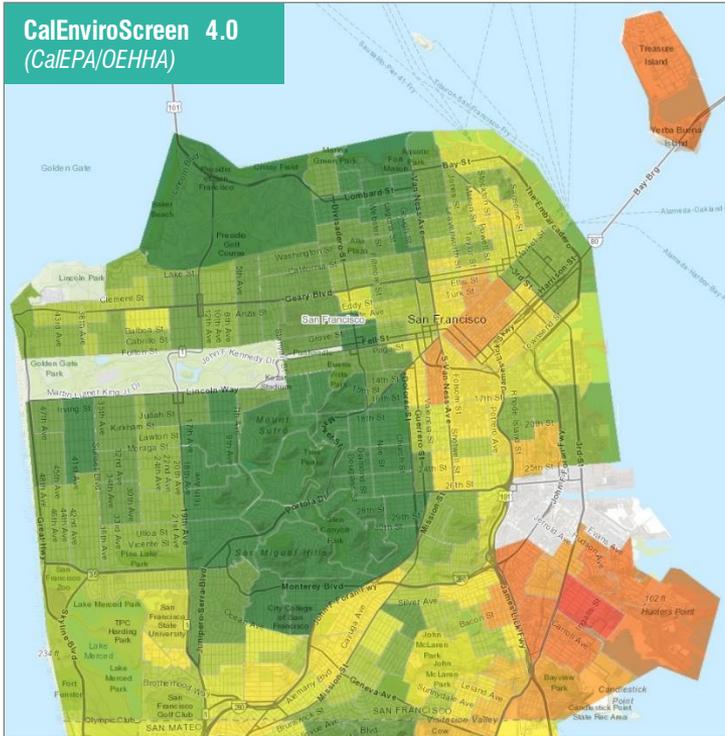
- Refine CalEnviroScreen with local data & create an easily replicable analysis
- Better align with maps by MTC, SFDPH, Rec & Park, etc.
- Reflect community feedback on areas of high need

\* Referred to as “Disadvantaged Communities” in SB1000

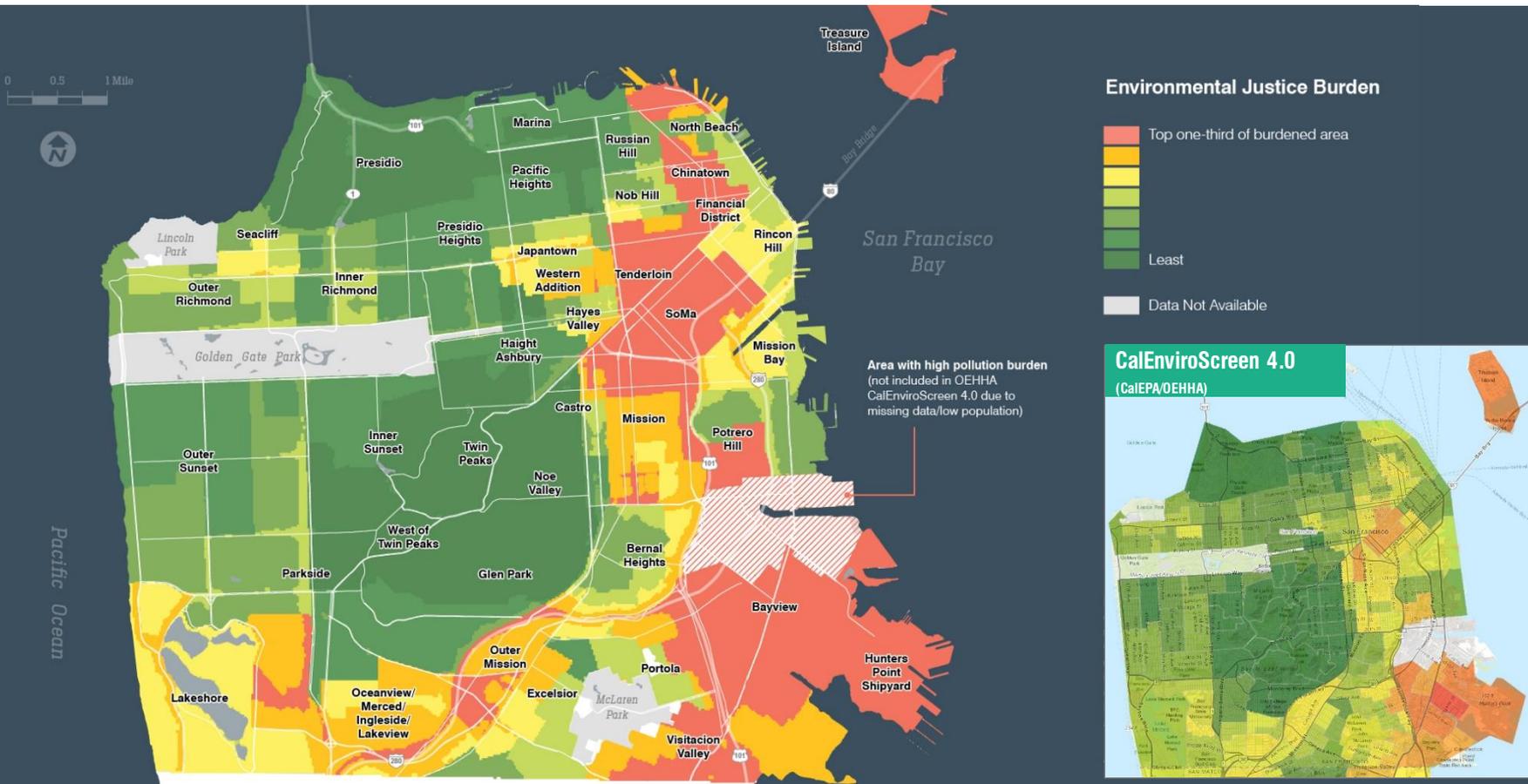


# EJ Communities Map Datasets

State encourages cities to refine CalEnviroScreen with local data on pollution burden and health risk factors



# San Francisco Environmental Justice Communities Map



# Data Portal

The **Environmental Justice Data Portal** is a website where people can learn about environmental justice and explore maps displaying health, demographics, and other data in the context of Environmental Justice Communities.

The screenshot displays the San Francisco Environmental Justice Data Portal. At the top, the title "San Francisco Environmental Justice Data Portal" is visible, along with social media icons and the "San Francisco Planning" logo. A navigation bar includes tabs for "About", "Community Stories", "Environment", "Public Facilities", "Food Access", "Housing", "Jobs", and "Empowered Neighborhoods". Below the navigation bar, a breadcrumb trail shows "Introduction" and "Preterm Births". The main content area is titled "Asthma" and contains the following text: "This map shows the rate of emergency department visits for asthma per 10,000 residents. Asthma is a lung disease that can lead to life-threatening conditions. Exposure to traffic and pollutants can trigger an asthma attack and can cause or worsen asthma conditions." Below the text, the source is cited as "Source: CalEnviroScreen 3.0". A "Data Source" button is located at the bottom left of the text area. To the right of the text is a map of San Francisco showing the rate of emergency department visits for asthma per 10,000 residents. The map is color-coded by district, with darker blue indicating higher rates. Districts shown include Golden Gate, Marina District, Richmond District, Sunset District, San Francisco, Mission District, San Miguel Hill, Bayview District, and Daly City. The map includes a scale bar (0.5, 1, 2 miles) and a "Powered by Esri" logo.

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# ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE FRAMEWORK

# Healthy and Resilient Environments

## EXAMPLE POLICY



### Invest in resilient public utility systems and affirm access to water, power and sanitation as a human right

Ensure that all residents and workers have access to safe, clean, affordable, accessible, and low-carbon sources of clean drinking water, electricity, wastewater services, broadband internet, and other utilities. Invest resources and promote actions that support the human right to water, power, and sanitation, particularly low-income households and people experiencing homelessness.

# Physical Activity and Healthy Public Facilities



Source: SFMTA Photo

## EXAMPLE POLICY

### Offer diverse, flexible, and inclusive programming in public facilities

Expand program offerings at public facilities to meet dynamic and evolving community needs. Partner with the community to ensure that programming is culturally appropriate and inclusive. Offer a range of opportunities for people of all ages, abilities, and cultures to participate in public programs.

# Healthy Food Access



## EXAMPLE POLICY

### Foster climate resilience and innovation in the food system

Facilitate local and regional food production (such as community gardens, rooftop and vertical gardens, and cottage industries), incorporate climate resilience through the local supply chain (such as net-zero emissions food distribution and infrastructure investments), and support youth training and workforce development in healthy food-related skills and industries.

# Safe, Healthy, and Affordable Homes

## EXAMPLE POLICY

### Ensure that housing supports public health

Ensure that existing and new developments include features that contribute to physical and mental health, such as open spaces, communal areas, and recreation amenities. Work to, stabilize, preserve, and upgrade existing housing stock to address unhealthy living conditions. Eliminate the use of toxic materials and ensure that housing built on environmentally contaminated land undergoes strict procedures for remediation, community engagement, and reporting.



# Equitable and Green Jobs

## EXAMPLE POLICY

### Foster a robust network of work & entrepreneurship

Dedicate City resources to building jobs and workforce opportunities, providing training and mentorship, and advancing emerging trades and industries that contribute to healthy communities. Offer tools, resources, and networks that provide workforce training, apprenticeships, mentorship, career development, management opportunities, and facilitate business ownership.



# Empowered Neighborhoods



## EXAMPLE POLICY

### **Center environmental justice efforts in collaboration with American Indian communities and Traditional Ecological Knowledge**

As First Peoples, American Indians have an inherent relationship with the land as traditional stewards, and a unique understanding of natural environments that predates modern science. Future initiatives should include intensive collaboration with American Indian tribes throughout the scoping, development, adoption, and implementation processes.

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## NEXT STEPS

# Interagency Partners: Coordination & Implementation

## SF Department of the Environment

- Elimination or mitigation of environmental burdens & improve the health outcomes for low-income communities of color

## SF Public Utilities Commission

- Consideration of EJ Communities in the Green Infrastructure Grant Program

## SF Human Rights Commission

- Development of Draft Reparations Plan

## SF Department of Public Health

- **Consideration of** public health approaches to environmental justice, including health promotion, indoor air quality, lead prevention, and COVID-19 support

## SF Recreation and Park Department

- Adopted the EJ Communities as their Equity Zones

...and more, including OEWD, ORCP, Port, SFMTA, and SFO.

A woman in a white lab coat and gloves is watering a child in a garden. The child is wearing a blue shirt. Other people are visible in the background, including a woman in a green shirt. The scene is outdoors with green plants and a white fence.

**THANK YOU**

Learn more & sign up for email updates at:  
<https://sfplanning.org/project/ej-framework>



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